

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 76

AUGUST 2013



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Bits and Pieces including news from Kuala Lumpur,
Grenada, Australia and Lebanon

The Sinclair Bruce Diary

Cover picture: Masonic Flag flying above Strathpeffer

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Editorial

Welcome to the 76th edition of the Patter.

It is with great sadness that I start the editorial with a tribute to Past Master Brother Dougie Macleod, Past Master of Lodge Ness No 888 and Past Depute Provincial Grand Master of Ross and Cromarty.

PM Macleod was one of the characters of the Craft and was well known and highly respected throughout the Province and beyond. His contribution to Masonry in the Province was immense and his passing will be felt at all levels and in all Orders of Masonry.

I visited PM Macleod in hospital just before I left for Kuala Lumpur and he was so looking forward to witnessing his grandson being initiated into Lodge Ness. I hope and trust that on the night of his Initiation that the Lodge will be packed out as a fitting tribute to the candidate's grandfather.

Our thoughts and prayers at this sad time are with his wife Jean and the extended family.

During the recess I have had the privilege of attending meetings in Kuala Lumpur, in Singapore, in Victoria and in New South Wales. Without exception the attendances were good and the Degree work was excellent making the whole trip a real pleasure.

Two things that caught my notice in quite a number of the Lodges was that they were attracting a significant number of younger men and that attendances were strong. On speaking to many of the Brethren it became obvious that one of the plus factors in those Lodges was the involvement of the members wives through their presence at Harmony's and at regular social events within the Lodges – perhaps it is time that we gave some thought and consideration to following their example.

Another plus factor for me, especially in the Lodges in Victoria, was the amount of involvement by all Brethren present at Degrees through the use of music. There is a significant amount of singing in each Degree – far more than we have at home – and as one highly respected Past Master pointed out to me – the constant use of music makes all Brethren feel involved in every Degree – and that has to be a good thing.

Ramsay McGhee, Editor

Grand Lodge of Scotland

The next Grand Lodge Communication will be held in Grand Hall on Thursday 24th October 2013 at 14.00 hours.



The Grand Lodge Installation and Festival of St Andrew will be held on Thursday 28th November 2013. Full details will be published in the November issue but I can inform you that the Festival of St Andrew will once again be held in the Corn Exchange and the cost this year will be £55 per person.



The Grand Lodge will be carrying out the following ceremonies over the next few months –

10th August – Centenary Rededication of Lodge Auchtergaven No 1123 in Perth.

7th September – 250th Rededication of Lodge St Nicholas No 93 in Aberdeen.

28th September – Centenary Celebration of Lodge Crawfordsburn No 1121 in Greenock.

5th October – Installation of the Provincial Grand Master of Argyll and the Isles in Campbeltown.

19th October – Centenary Rededication of Lodge Nisbet No 1112 in Tranent

2nd November – 200th Rededication of Lodge Union No 250 in Dunfermline.

9th November – 300th Rededication of Lodge Montrose Kilwinning in Montrose

28th November – Grand Lodge Installation and festival of St Andrew

30th November – Centenary Rededication of Lodge Eastmuir No 1126 in Glasgow.

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Provincial Grand Lodge:

Brethren

I do not have much to report this quarter but would like to remind you all that as far as the Province is concerned, the new season begins with the Quarterly Communication on Wednesday 28th August which will be held in Lodge Kyle at 8.00 pm. I would greatly appreciate a good turnout from the Lodges – especially the Masters and Wardens.

I look forward to meeting up with you in Kyle.

William Ross
Provincial Grand Master

Chernobyl Visit



The children and their leaders. Dennis Hopkins (the one with the beard) is the chairman of The Chernobyl Children's Lifeline Inverness branch and Hana on the right of the middle row is the interpreter. (See page 5)

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From The Provincial Almoner

Unfortunately, once again, I have to start my report on a sad note and record the passing of two well-known members of the Craft.

A few weeks ago it was with regret that we learned of the passing to the Grand Lodge above of Past Master Dougie Macleod, Lodge Ness. Dougie was a very active Brother and apart from serving his Lodge in many ways was also a very active member of Provincial Grand Lodge in which some years ago he served a term as Depute Provincial Grand Master.

About the same time as Dougie's passing we also learned with regret of the passing of Bro. George Patience, Lodge Rosehaugh. George, who resided in Tain, was in latter years a regular attender in Lodge St Duthus.

Both brethren will be very much missed by us all and cards have been sent to their families conveying the deepest sympathies of the Provincial Grand Master and brethren of the Province.

Past Provincial Grand Master Morris Downie has recently not been so well but is now, after a few days in bed, in good form and on the road to recovery.

Past Master Sinclair Bruce, Lodge Rosehaugh, recently spent a week in Raigmore Hospital but is now home and his usual cheery self and looking forward to attending the August meeting of Lodge Allan Wilson.

Past Master George MacKay, Lodge Fortrose was also in hospital recently receiving chemotherapy but is now home having completed that course of treatment.

Past Master Donald George Ross, Lodge St Duthus is still attending various clinics in Raigmore and recently attended a clinic at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary where he was seen by doctors from the Golden Jubilee Hospital, Clydebank where he had been an in-patient a few months ago. He sees a slight improvement since a change in some of his medication.

Mrs Margaret MacKintosh, Dingwall, wife of Bro Colin MacKintosh, WJW of Lodge Fingal is currently in Raigmore Hospital receiving a course of chemotherapy.

Bro Les Ross, PM from Lodge Ness No 88 is currently in Ward 11 in Raigmore and making slow progress.

Bro Freddie Reid, Lodge Fingal No 318 has been in hospital but is now home and well on the road to recovery however, I'm afraid that his wife Ann having broken her leg subsequently broke her arm also.

I'm sure you'll all join me in passing on good wishes to them all.

On a personal note I would like to put on record my sincere thanks to all those who enquired about my well-being during my most recent stay in Aberdeen Royal Infirmary and since my return home after my operation.

David MacMaster,

Provincial Grand Almoner

Tel: 01997 421306 email: david@strathpeffer.net

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FROM THE LODGES

Lodge St Duthus No 82



The first meeting of the new session will be held on Monday 7th October at 7.45 pm. The Master, Bro Alan Pett extends a warm welcome to all Brethren to join us then or indeed at any of our meetings throughout the coming season. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month

David Macrae, PM
Secretary

FORTROSE LODGE No. 108

On Friday 2nd August we will be working a mark degree (by the time you read this we should already have worked a mark). We expect 4 candidates will be put through that evening and we are also expecting 4 visitors from Lodge Thistle No. 270 in West Calder, led by Past Master Rab Smith, who will be staying over the weekend to enjoy the carnival festivities.

Our next meeting will be Friday 6th September which is the night before the installation of our new Provincial Grand Superintendent when we expect quite a number of visitors to be present.

On 24th July we welcomed the children from Chernobyl who visit the Inverness area on their annual 3 night visit. There was the usual full timetable to keep them occupied during their stay. We cannot thank the local businesses and organisations enough for their donations of time and materials. On Saturday morning with the sun blazing on an outing in a rib we were fortunate enough to come across a large pod of dolphins who decided to show off by leaping all around the boat, the kids were thrilled to bits.

The kids and the grown-ups who had their faces painted along with the Lynn Maclean Dancers, who had been performing for our visitors.



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Robertson's Lodge No 134

Hi Brethren,

There is little to report at present with regard to our Lodge as we have been in recess since our April meeting. I hope all are enjoying the summer break and enjoying the good spell of weather. For those who have been on holiday I hope it was a good one and for those with it still to come then it is something to look forward to.

I have been speaking to the working party who are organising the refurbishment work in the Lodge. It is still to commence and it is planned to have a gathering in the Lodge in the near future to see exactly what needs done and what we need to buy. For those who have been absent recently we already have new cupboards and a cooker in the kitchen area thanks to Brothers Andrew MacIvor and Peter Foster. When a date is decided for the gathering I will circulate it to those concerned. Helpers will always be appreciated.

Our first Regular Meeting of the new season will be on Wednesday 18th September 2013 at 7.45 pm when we will be working a MM Degree. The candidate will be Bro Douglas Cooper. A good turnout would be appreciated and hopefully some of the Brethren who have not been able to attend of late will manage back among us to keep the Lodge thriving. All visitors will be most welcome. A Billet for this meeting will be circulated in the usual manner prior to the meeting.

I look forward to meeting up with all in the near future.

Regards

James A Tait, PM

Secretary

Highland Hospice

The Hospice Brain Game will take place in the Iron Works on Friday 15th November. It would be good to see either teams from some of the Lodges or a team from the Province taking part – there are a significant number of Quiz participants throughout the Province – why not get together and get an application form from Amanda Burt at Highland Hospice or let me know and I'll organise one for you. *Ed*

To keep your marriage brimming,
with love in the loving cup,
whenever you're wrong, admit it;
whenever you're right, shut up.

– *Ogden Nash*

A pessimist is one who makes difficulties
of his opportunities and an optimist is
one who makes opportunities of his
difficulties.

– *Harry Truman*

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Lodge Fingal No 318



May special meeting: Saturday 11th when Lodge St. Peter's Operative No 284 Caithness, worked a Mark°. The visitation included 17 Brethren with 3 ladies and were treated to meal in the Logie Lounge, which was prepared and served by the Fingal ladies. The Lodge Tyled at 6pm, the candidate Bro Stephen Richard Gair, who Affiliated to Fingal on 11/12/2013, He was Initiated in the Civil & Military Lodge No 726 Bermuda, but never received his Mark. The deputation was introduced into the Lodge and the RWM Bro Robert Thompson was presented and took his rightful seat in the East. Our RWM Bro Ivan Warwick then handed the gavel over to RWM Bro Thompson after the usual formalities. The degree was then worked, but before the Traditional History was given, this lecture was given by our very own PM Rory MacKenzie, as St. Peter's had nobody to do the Lecture, the RWPGM of Caithness Bro Donald J. Chambers was presented to the East, as he was the Master Overseer and never took his rightful seat at the start of proceedings. At the conclusion both Masters came down onto the floor of the Lodge and congratulated Bro Gair on taking his fourth regular step in Freemasonry. At the conclusion the gavel was then returned to RWM Bro Warwick. RWPGM of Caithness Bro Donald J. Chambers, stood up at the second rising and thanked for the hospitality downstairs, for Bro Gair on being the candidate who was very attentive on taking his forth regular step in Freemasonry and PM Rory MacKenzie for a very fine Lecture. The degree work was well received from the 19 Fingalians and 7 visitors. To finish the day off there was a wee Jig at 8pm, music by Mike Samms.

Unfortunately in the middle of July, Bro Gair returned to Bermuda and will be sadly missed, as he was a keen member.

October meeting: 8th - MM degree for Bro Robert Cassie.

November meeting: 12th - AGM and nomination of Office Bearers.

December meeting: 10th - M.M degree for Bro David Robertson.

Events Logie Lounge:

Unfortunately there were no events.

That's all Folks, watch this Space.

D. Gunn P.M.

Secretary

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE WEBSITE

For up to the Minute information and back copies of the Provincial Patter – access the Provincial Website on - <http://www.pgrossandcromarty.org.uk/>

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Lodge Allan Wilson No 851

At the July meeting of Lodge Allan Wilson the Brethren enjoyed a very informative talk from Bro Mike Turner on an innovative piece of equipment which his company have designed and built to save lives at sea called "Watch-mate". The brethren were extremely interested in the topic and asked many questions at the end of the demonstration after which they showed their appreciation in the customary manner.

The August meeting will take place at 11.30 am on Tuesday 13th when PM John Noble of Lodge Fingal will give a presentation on Masonic Stamp Collecting. I have had the privilege of hearing the lecture before and PM Noble gives a very interesting insight into this aspect of Masonry.

The Master of Lodge Allan Wilson, Bro Robin Cattenach, extends a warm welcome to all Brethren from throughout the Province and beyond, especially those who have retired and have the ability to come along to a day time Lodge, to come along and enjoy the fellowship of Lodge Allan Wilson. Lunch is served after the meeting and costs only £12.

A warm welcome awaits you at 851.

Excerpts from the Past –

This article appeared in the February 2005 edition:

Bro William Grigor Macintosh passed on to the Grand Lodge above on 3rd January 2005 and a funeral service was held in the Congregational Church in Avoch on Saturday 15th January 2005. Bro Macintosh will be remembered near and far for his devotion to the memory of Sir Alexander Mackenzie who is buried at the Church of Scotland in Avoch.

Bro John Patience PM has prepared the following article on Bro Macintosh.

Grigor was born on 23 March 1916 and would have been 89 years old in March. He worked on the Corselet Farm and thereafter as a driver and general factotum for D Macleman, Merchant and his associated family farm. In 1935 he joined the Territorial Army linked to 4th/5th Seaforth Highlanders.

Grigor joined Lodge Rosehaugh on 9th January 1938 along with Hugh A Patience having their ballot declared clear earlier during the meeting (things done a bit different then!). On the 6th March Grigor was passed to the Fellow Craft and with Hugh A Patience and another Hugh Patience. On the 3 April 1939 both the fore-mentioned Hugh's were raised to Master Mason but Grigor's name was missing. He had been called up, and served as transport Sergeant. Along with Neil Wilson PM, Grigor was captured at Saint Valery, France in 1940 and spent the next 5 years in a Prisoner of war camp. He did escape 3 times and was fortunate to escape being shot on the last occasion. Sadly, Bro Hugh A Patience was killed at Saint Valery.

Grigor's name next appears in the Lodge minutes at a special meeting held on the 16th May 1945. The minutes quote "Bro W Grigor Macintosh the first brother to return from a prisoner of war camp. Bro George Forsyth PM had kept the Lodge going all through the war years."

On the 21st May Grigor was finally raised to the High and Sublime degree of Master Mason.

Over the next fifty years Grigor was a fairly regular attendee. Indeed when the reconstruction of Lodge Rosehaugh took place in 1965 his expertise was invaluable as he was the electrician in charge.

In his latter years he had been confined to bed in the Marine Nursing Home where he certainly appreciated the visits from the Lodge Almoner Donald Jack and myself on many notable occasions.

Incidentally the late Hugh A Patience was an uncle of Bro David Patience PM.

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Lodge Seaforth No 854

It is amazing how quickly time passes. It seems like no time since the last Patter and we were looking forward to the summer break. Now that break is nearly over and we look forward to starting our new Season.

The Summer Break mind you has had its busy times but has been a time of mostly happy occasions and it has been nice to see what the sun looks like over the past week or two.

We started our summer with our Bi-Annual visit to Lodge John O' Groats in Castletown where we worked a Mark degree. This was followed as always by a wonderful Evening of Feasting and Dancing with our Hosts proving to be as hospitable as ever and providing us with a wonderful meal before the dancing began and then providing us with a delicious supper before the Evening ended. Our thanks go out to our Friends from Caithness for another great visit and we look forward to taking our turn again next year.

On now to the next season, and our first meeting on Monday September 16th September will be an Entered Apprentice Degree. We also have a ballot on that night. We look forward to meeting all our friends old and new on that day.

Finally, here is something which I added several years ago but is just a thought provoking today.

Carrot, Egg and Coffee

You will never look at a cup of coffee the same way again...

A young woman went to her mother and told her about her life and how things were so hard for her. She did not know how she was going to make it and wanted to give up. She was tired of fighting and struggling. It seemed as one problem was solved, a new one arose.

Her mother took her to the kitchen. She filled three pots with water and placed each on a high fire. Soon the pots came to boil. In the first she placed carrots, in the second she placed eggs, and in the last she placed ground coffee beans. She let them sit and boil, without saying a word.

In about twenty minutes she turned off the burners. She fished the carrots out and placed them in a bowl. She pulled the eggs out and placed them in a bowl. Then she ladled the coffee out and placed it in a bowl.

Turning to her daughter, she asked, "Tell me what you see."

"Carrots, eggs, and coffee," she replied.

Her mother brought her closer and asked her to feel the carrots. She did and noted that they were soft. The mother then asked the daughter to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, she observed the hardboiled egg. Finally, the mother asked the daughter to sip the coffee. The daughter smiled as she tasted its rich aroma. The daughter then asked, "What does it mean, mother?"

Her mother explained that each of these objects had faced the same adversity - boiling water. Each reacted differently. The carrot went in strong, hard, and unrelenting. However, after being subjected to the boiling water, it softened and became weak.

The egg had been fragile. Its thin outer shell had protected its liquid interior, but after sitting through the boiling water, its inside became hardened.

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Lodge Seaforth No 854 – cont.

The ground coffee beans were unique, however. After they were in the boiling water, they had changed the water.

"Which are you?" she asked her daughter. "When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a carrot, an egg or a coffee bean?"

Think of this: Which am I? Am I the carrot that seems strong, but with pain and adversity do I wilt and become soft and lose my strength?

Am I the egg that starts with a malleable heart, but changes with the heat? Did I have a fluid spirit, but after a death, a breakup, a financial hardship or some other trial, have I become hardened and stiff? Does my shell look the same, but on the inside am I bitter and tough with a stiff spirit and hardened heart?

Or am I like the coffee bean? The bean actually changes the hot water, the very circumstance that brings the pain. When the water gets hot, it releases the fragrance and flavour. If you are like the bean, when things are at their worst, you get better and change the situation around you.

When the hour is the darkest and trials are their greatest, do you elevate yourself to another level? How do you handle adversity? Are you a carrot, an egg or a coffee bean?

Cochrane Donald

Past Master

Lodge Averon 866

Genealogists' Prayer.

*Lord, help me dig into the past
And sift the sands of time
That I may find the roots that made
This family of mine.*

*2. Lord, help me trace the ancient roads
on which my father's trod.
and led them through so many lands
To find our present sod.*

*3. Lord, help me find an ancient book
Or dirty manuscript
That's safely hidden now away
In some forgotten crypt.*

*4. Lord, let it bridge the gap that haunts
my soul when I can't find;
the missing link between some names,
That ends the same as mine.*

Lodge Averon members are enjoying the good weather during our recess and I am sure all the batteries will be charged ready for our first meeting on 10th October which will be a business meeting. Our next meeting after that (Oct 24th) will be a MM Degree when Bro Kris Bauer will be the "lucky" candidate. A delegation, headed by Bro Calum MacKenzie, RWM visited Lodge Stormont 1524 in Scone and had a good day. They worked a FC Degree. We would like to express our condolences to Lodge Ness on the passing away of PM Bro Dougie MacLeod. A great loss to Ness and the other orders of which he was a member and held in such high esteem.

Henry W MacInnes
Secretary

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Lodge Ness No 888

As we are in recess, not much has been happening and the passing of PM Douglas (Dougie) Macleod to the Grand Lodge above has left all of us rather disheartened. It was after a short illness that he was taken from us, a fortnight before his 87th birthday.

Dougie was involved with Lodge Ness for over 50 years and rarely missed a meeting, where he enjoyed keeping us up to standard (sometimes his standard) but he did it well and we appreciated it. He even got permission to be released from hospital to attend his grandson's enquiry meeting a fortnight before he passed away.

Dougie was involved with almost every branch of Masonry, to the extent that he was raised to the Masters chair in almost every order and was so respected that one of the orders he did not join (Heilan Shed No 6) held a few moments silence at one of their meetings.

On Saturday the 10th August, Lodge Ness will be holding a wheelbarrow race from the Lodge at 11 am. If a member of any other Lodge would like to take part in this event to raise funds for their Lodge or charity, sponsorship forms are available. This will be followed by our summer barbeque in the Macleod garden, at the rear of the Lodge, This is an open event to which all are welcome with their friends and children and is scheduled to start the cooking at 1pm.



*Happier
days –*

*PM Dougie
Macleod
and his wife
Jean at the
opening of
the
Macleod
Gardens*

Our first meeting of the season will be on the 8th October and will be a business meeting, followed by a 2nd degree meeting on the 20th of October.

R. W. Morrison.
PM - Secretary.

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LODGE KYLE No 1117

As most of you know (because many of you were in attendance) Lodge Kyle 1117 had their Centenary Celebrations at the end of May. Firstly on behalf of The Brethren of Lodge Kyle I would like to thank EVERYONE who travelled over the mountains to be with us making it one of the most special days in the history of Lodge Kyle. Especially the Brethren from Grand Lodge who performed the Ceremony of Re-Dedication in the Lodge. It was both dignified and poignant and the professionalism with which it was carried out, appreciated by all. The musicians also added greatly to the memory of the day, especially appreciated as they stepped in at the last minute. I would also like to mention that every brother in the lodge worked tremendously hard in preparing the Lodge and the events of the day; one quipping “Wouldn’t it be great for the Lodge if we had a Centenary every year!”



The BBC were also in attendance in the form of the Gaelic TV channel ALBA. They sent me a high quality CD of their short Documentary on the event which you can view on the www.lodgekyle.co.uk website (on our front page)

The photographs both formal and some when the brethren are more relaxed at the Dinner have also been uploaded to our website in the form of a Gallery at the same web address - just click the link for GALLERY OF PICTURES.

If you didn't make it to the Centenary there is a full description of the day's events (with preparations and some background) on the website at http://lodgekyle.co.uk/press_release.html

The Lodge had a limited number of (stunning) commemorative tokens minted, both colour and normal pennies. Anyone interested in obtaining one should contact the Lodge Kyle Secretary. The prices are set to simply cover costs.

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I would also like to mention Lodge Tullibardine in the East who are “1 up” from Lodge Kyle at Lodge No 1118. We had been in communication by email as both Lodges were about to have their Centenary within a month of each other and had visited Lodge Kyle in the past. It was most interesting to hear about their history and the workings of the modern Lodge. Their Celebrations Lasted 3 days and began on the Thursday with visitors arriving from all over Kuala Lumpur and Malaysia and ran through the Re-Dedication Ceremony on Saturday 15th June followed by Cocktails and a Gala Dinner. A very full and well organised programme of events!

Our next event at Lodge Kyle will be The Quarterly Communication of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ross and Cromarty on 28th Aug 2013 Lodge Kyle 8pm (Wednesday). Followed by our first meeting after Summer Recess on the first Monday of the month ... 2nd September 8pm.

Ronnie Miller, RWM Lodge Kyle No. 1117

Excerpts from the Past

The following was from the May 2004 edition

Change:

I promised in the last edition that I would do my utmost to change the format of the Patter in order that it would be more readily accessible to everyone on-line and thereby cut down the paper and postage costs. Well here we are, my very first attempt to do the business in Microsoft Word rather than in my old favourite – Word Perfect. Hopefully, you will all be able to access this version without any problem.

It has taken me a considerable time to change from the system that I was familiar with and was comfortable with but, isn't that very often the case with all of us? We possess a natural trait to resist change but there are times when we have to change. That is the case with Freemasonry today. If we want to encourage young men of quality into the Craft and retain them we have no option but to change.

The Provinces, Districts and Daughter Lodges need to emulate the example set by Grand Lodge and embrace change - but, not just for the sake of change. We have to examine how best we can attain the objectives of attracting a new generation of members and keeping them interested and involved. We need to use techniques that have proved successful in other places being mindful that what works in one place may not work in another.

Of course many Brethren will resist any change that may emanate from such examination but we have to encourage and guide those Brethren through any resulting change for the greater good of the Craft.

It won't be easy but if we want to sustain our beloved Craft for future generations then we must face up to the challenges and face up to them sooner rather than later.

Nothing is out-with the bounds of possibility – if I can change from WordPerfect – then anything is possible.

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Lodge Rosehaugh No 1216

Saturday 4th May 2013 was the date for the annual meeting of Lodges 1212-1219 and Lodge St Martin 1217 in Ullapool was hosting. The delegation from Lodge Rosehaugh 1216, led by IPM Duncan Macleman - thanks for the driving duties Dunc - and accompanied by PM Allan Carmichael, PM Keith Patience and Bro's Brian Carmichael, Gordon Macleman and Raymond Owens left Avoch in good spirits for the trip across to the other side of the Province. A small wager ensured that we arrived in good time and well worth it as the pre-meeting hospitality was excellent. The St Martin degree team put on an excellent rendition of the Mark Master degree with several candidates, both local and travellers. More hospitality followed including an excellent meal across the road at the Royal Hotel before retiring back to the lodge for more refreshments and a grand raffle where PM Patience was overjoyed to win a bottle of malt whisky - which he promptly dropped and smashed. The journey home was only interrupted by sudden bursts of laughter at Keo's expense.

Once again a big thank you to Lodge St Martin 1217 for their generous hospitality and we are already looking forward to 2014 where Lodge Gleniffer, Paisley, will be our hosts.

Allan Carmichael, PM 1216

It seems an age since we held our final meeting prior to the summer recess when on 3rd May we worked an F/craft degree for Bro Kelman as well as the Annual PGL visitation.

We are holding an open evening for Brethren and guests on Saturday 24th August at 7.00pm with music from Lesley Graham so if you are free that evening please come along and enjoy the evening.

Meeting dates for forthcoming session are:

5th October 2013. 3rd degree.

1st November 2013. tbc

6th December 2013. Tbc

Keith Patience, PM
Secretary

As many of the Brethren will know the Lodge has to report the passing of two well-known Brethren to the Grand Lodge above.

Bro George Patience (former janitor of Dingwall Academy) joined Lodge Rosehaugh in 1957. Whilst at Rosehaugh he was an active member on the floor and when he was appointed to Dingwall Academy he was Senior Deacon and a prospective candidate for the Chair. Thereafter he came to see us when he could and when he retired to Tain his son Hugh (PM of Lodge St Duthus) regularly took him along until poor health prevented his going. Both Lodges will miss his cheery disposition and our sympathies go to PM Hugh and the rest of the Family.

Douglas Macleod PM known to us all as Duggie was a member of Lodge Ness no 888 but was also an affiliate member of Lodge Rosehaugh. He was, as is well-known, a very accomplished Freemason, a floor operator of the highest order. He regularly chaired our Mark Degrees to the delight of all. He will be sorely missed. Again our sympathies are extended to his wife and family.

John Patience PM

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Lodge St Martin 1217

The new season begins on Tuesday 15th October 2013 when we will hold our AGM and Election of Office-bearers. Our Installation will be held on 19th November 2013. We will be working a Mark Degree on Saturday 19th October 2013 when the Provincial Grand Lodge of Galloway will be visiting St Martin, the Lodge will tyle at 2pm.

Charles MacAulay, PM
Secretary

Lodge Loch Ewe 1551

As intimated in previous Lodge Loch Ewe 'Patter' snippets it is always good to see visitors to the lodges within the Province and a warm welcome is always extended to Brethren coming to Aultbea; for the ensuing season we will meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays between September and April beginning 12th September at 8 pm.

During the close season, the weather turning a shade of drizzle, on Saturday 6th July matters certainly brightened up on the shores of Loch Ewe when the Brithers of Heilan' Shed No. 6 o' Squaremen descended upon us. Four worthy Brethren joined the ranks of the Shed viz. RWM Gibby Hassell, IPM Barrie Whitwell, Bro Secretary Duncan MacLennan and Bro Treasurer Allan MacCrimmon with Allan gratefully accepting a cheque for £ 120 raised on the day – to be disbursed as the Lodge sees fit to charities within the locality. As usual, at the end of the business, the 'best value in the area' fare of mince and tatties at £3 a serving went down a treat with the writer having his customary two plates.

With the successful degree work carried out in April for the visit of PGL it is the intention of the lodge Brethren to continue 'working the ritual' over the coming months so it will be away with the sun cream which has been to the fore this last few weeks and back to the bread and butter of our labours – looking forward to the fruits it may bring!

At the April PGL visitation brethren will recall our mock EA being Alastair (Ally) Gault who had had a brief overnight stay in Raigmore just prior to his 'initiation'. The following month, at Lodge Kyle's Centenary celebrations, Grand Lodge participation et al, Ally took unwell and, following a further admission to Raigmore underwent surgery to rectify matters via an operation for gallstones. We are happy to report that Ally is making a full recovery and is back at the bowls and doing the circuit at the shinty grounds where he watches his grandson progressing with the Priory 1235 Brethren probably also taking an interest.

Andrew M. Henderson
Almoner

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The Sinclair Bruce Diary

How time passes - I am now about to commence my contribution to the 76th edition of the Patter and it goes without saying that the Patter has progressed into a very popular journal of news and pictures from far and wide in our Masonic calendar. Each edition has its own area of interest to us all.

I have just returned from King Brude Conclave where I witnessed a very well worked initiation of a father and son both from Lodge Fingal. I was sorry I could not wait for the meal as I always maintain that the meal is really the conclusion of the meeting and is a chance for all to get to know each other and, of course, bend the elbow in the true Highland fashion and with the spirit of your choice.

If you were watching Britain's got Talent on the TV, I hope you enjoyed the semi-final as much as I did. It was so nice to see one's favourite in the top three with the two brothers, both great singers, coming first and the young girl of fourteen, Alexandra, second and the choir called *Youth Creation* third. I'm sure we will be hearing all three in future programs. The second semi-final was for the younger members of our society and although very interesting and nice to view, I cannot see them competing with the seniors. And now the third semi-final with another two through to the finals named Francine Lewis and Asanda. The fourth semi-final saw three names going through but they only required two names, the two selected were a choir called *Attraction* and a singer, Jordan o' Keef, The third name selected was Steve Houlet, a wonderful ventriloquist who I have no doubt we will see, hopefully with a program of his own. So to the final - although very good, it did not come up to expectations as the winning group was not from Britain. So much for Britain's got talent!

It's now Tuesday 11th June and I have just returned from our first meeting of Lodge Allan Wilson for this session. It was our installation of Master and Office-bearers conducted by Installing Master, Bro Ramsay McGhee assisted by Brothers Jim Tait, Morris Downie and the Rev Andrew Paterson all offices firmly placed and addressed in the customary manner. The July meeting of the Allan Wilson Lodge is now behind us but unfortunately due to a relapse in my health I was unable to attend however I am reliably informed that all went well and although not the best turn out all business was completed and those who waited enjoyed an excellent meal. Well now that appears to be all news and updates I have to hand and as we are all presently in recess the Masonic news has been limited.

Sinclair Bruce

BITS AND PIECES

I am delighted to have more words of wisdom from Bro Kalpesh Shah.

There was a father who left 17 camels as an asset for his three sons.

When the father passed away, his sons opened up the will.

The Will of the father stated that the eldest son should get half of 17 camels while the middle son should be given 1/3rd (one-third). The youngest son should be given 1/9th (one-ninth) of the 17 camels.

As it is not possible to divide 17 into half or 17 by 3 or 17 by 9, three sons started to fight with each other. So, the three sons decided to go to a wise man.

The wise man listened patiently about the Will.

The wise man, after giving this thought, brought one camel of his own and added the same to 17. That increased the total to 18 camels.

Now, he started reading the deceased father's will.

Half of 18 = 9. So he gave the eldest son 9 camels

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$1/3$ rd of 18 = 6. So he gave the middle son 6 camels

$1/9$ th of 18 = 2. So he gave the youngest son 2 camels.

Now add this up: 9 plus 6 plus 2 is 17 and this leaves one camel, which the wise man took away.

Moral: The attitude of negotiation and problem solving is to find the 18th camel i.e. the common ground. Once a person is able to find the common ground the issue is resolved. It is difficult at times. However, to reach a solution, the first step is to believe that there is a solution. If we think that there is no solution, we won't be able to reach any!

Bro Kalpesh Shah



TOOLS for MALAWI

I am delighted to be able to report that the tools collected by Brethren throughout the Province and by Brethren in our Sister Province of Fife and Kinross, have finally arrived in Malawi. The consignment arrived in Ekwandeni Hospital on Wednesday 24th April – some 500 miles north of the Mountain View School for Deaf Children. Bro Gordon Sheppard, Grand Superintendent of Malawi has arranged for Bro Graham Swart, RWM Lodge Viphya No 1571, to arrange for collection from Ekwandeni by one of his firm's trucks at the end of next week, for arrival in Blantyre over the weekend of 4th May which happens to be Lodge Viphya's Installation Meeting.

It has taken longer than we anticipated for the tools to arrive but nevertheless we acknowledge with gratitude the work of the Raven Trust who made it possible to get the nine crates of tools out to Malawi.

A considerable number of tools are now accumulating in my shed in Fortrose and I am aware that Bro Rev Andrew E Paterson, PGM of Fife & Kinross is also collecting more tools from throughout his Province. We hope to be able to send out a second batch in the autumn – so please don't discard any good second hand tools (especially woodworking tools) you may have – hold on to them and we will arrange to collect them shortly after the Lodges resume for the new session.

My sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed to the first consignment.

LATEST NEWS – as we go to print with this edition, I have received a letter from the Headmaster of the School, Cassidy Magreta. It is not good news. Basically, the Malawian Government have not paid wages for over three years and are doing their best to wash their hands of this school and two other similar schools. The only instructor who has been paid is the one we pay for. There are obviously other politics at work between the Mission who started the school and the Government but, as things stand at the moment, all three schools could be closed down – an appalling state of affairs that will leave those children who are profoundly deaf with nowhere to go. I have discussed the matter with the PGM and he has agreed that I approach the Scotland / Malawi Partnership (which we as a Province are members of) and ascertain if there is anything that they can do to influence the Government to support the school in terms of the original Memorandum of Understanding. Hopefully the school can be saved and we can continue to support it as we have in the past.

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In light of the crisis at Mountain View School, the following poem is maybe quite pertinent –

Ever wonder about the abbreviation A.S.A.P.? Generally we think of “**As Soon As Possible**” in terms of even more hurry and stress in our lives. Maybe if we think of this abbreviation in a different manner, we will begin to find a new way to deal with those rough days along the way.

*There's work to do, deadlines to meet;
You've got no time to spare,
But as you hurry and scurry-
ASAP - ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER*

*In the midst of family chaos,
"Quality time" is rare.
Do your best; let God do the rest-
ASAP - ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER.*

*It may seem like your worries
Are more than you can bear?
Slow down and take a breather-
ASAP - ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER*

*God knows how stressful life is;
He wants to ease our cares,
And He'll respond to all your needs
A.S.A.P. - ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER.*

Visitation to Malaysia and Australia

On Thursday 13th June at the Communication of Grand Lodge, Past Depute Grand Master, Bro Hugh Bryson, Grand Almoner, Bro Thomas C Smith and myself had one eye on the clock during the proceedings due to the fact that we had to travel from Edinburgh through to Glasgow Airport to catch the Emirates flight to Dubai and onwards to Kuala Lumpur. The reason being that we were heading for Lodge Tullibardine in the East No 1118 SC who were celebrating their Centenary on the Saturday. The Lodge Installation was held on the Friday night but due to the fact that our flight didn't arrive into Kuala Lumpur until late on the Friday we missed the ceremony but arrived just in time to meet up with some of the Brethren and their wives.

Saturday morning and we made our way to the newly completed Reid Masonic Centre, Bukit Oug, Kuala Lumpur, to rehearse the Rededication Ceremony with those local Brethren who had very kindly agreed to assist the Grand Lodge Deputation.

Under the expert leadership of Bro Hugh Bryson, Past Depute Grand Master, the entire ceremony went to plan and from all accounts was greatly appreciated by the large number of Brethren in attendance. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the newly Installed Master of Lodge Tullibardine in the East, Bro Chua Chye Sun, thanked the Deputation in very sincere terms for conducting the ceremony and thereafter gave a warm invitation to the Deputation to join in the Centenary Gala Dinner celebrations in the fashionable Marco Polo Restaurant.

During a most enjoyable evening the usual Toasts and Responses were acknowledged and I have to just mention the fact that Glenmorangie laid on a team of very elegant young ladies to wander around in fashionable Glenmorangie mini-skirts ensuring that we had, at all times, a sufficiency of the golden nectar from the Province of Ross and Cromarty. Where are we going wrong?

The thanks of the Grand Lodge Deputation must be recorded to the District Grand Master, Bro Dr Dunstan Fernandez and all the Brethren of Lodge Tullibardine in the East for their exceedingly warm welcome and their outstanding hospitality and generosity. We wish them well as they enter their second century.

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After a relaxing day on the Sunday, the three of us went our separate ways on the Monday. Ann and I travelled down to Singapore in order that I could attend a meeting of Lodge St Andrew No 1437. What a delight to be back with the Brethren of 1437 and what a tremendous welcome we received. Ann joined the ladies while I attended an excellent working of the FC Degree carried out by the Master, Bro Stuart MacDonald and his Office-bearers. The Lodge is doing exceptionally well at the moment with three candidates awaiting initiation, one candidate for Affiliation, six candidates awaiting their FC Degree and a further seven awaiting their MM Degree. It is very heartening to see the Lodge in such a healthy state. After the meeting we joined with the ladies in an excellent Harmony in the newly refurbished premises. Again, I must record my sincere thanks to the Brethren of the Lodge for their hospitality and generosity.

After Singapore it was back to Kuala Lumpur and onward to Melbourne. There was a large Deputation of Brethren from the United Grand Lodge of Victoria at the rededication celebrations and when Bro Keith Murray heard that I was going to be in Melbourne he very kindly invited me to attend a meeting of Seavic Lodge No 8 on the Friday night. The Seavic Lodge includes members from both Australia and South East Asia, and was formed with the purpose of developing fraternal relations between Australian and Asian Brethren. What an excellent advert for Freemasonry – an excellent turnout of Brethren, many of whom were young men, to witness one of the finest Degrees that I have witnessed in a long time. While we were engaged in the Lodge, the wives were in another part of the building watching a film then we all got together for an excellent Harmony at the end of the evening. In Victoria many of the Lodges have composed songs that all the Lodge Brethren sing to the visitors after the formal Toast and Reply have been given. In Seavic Lodge the song is sung to the tune of “My Bonnie” and the words are –

*At SEAVIC we lift up our glasses
we welcome you here “One and All”
Our hand is extended to greet you,
Fellowship and love say it all. IT ALL!
Fellowship and love say it all*

*(Chorus)
SEAVIC, SEAVIC,
we drink to your health, in good cheer. Good Cheer!
SEAVIC, SEAVIC
we drink to your health, in good cheer. Good Cheer!*

*Our brethren from over the ocean
Visitors from near, far and wide,
we hope you enjoyed being with us,
and invite you to join us again. AGAIN!
And invite you to join us again.*



L to R – Brothers Keith Murray, Ramsay McGhee, Tony Meechan and Tom Kelly enjoying Harmony at Seavic Lodge.

Unfortunately I didn't get the words of any of the songs in other Lodges but it is a really nice touch. My sincere thanks to Bro Keith Murray for taking Ann and I along to the meeting and to the Seavic Brethren for their kindness and generosity.

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From Melbourne we made our way to Albury to visit our son and his family. While in Albury I had the great pleasure of returning to Lodge Belvoir No 727 (UGLV) in Wodonga. It was a real delight to meet up again with Bro Frank Walsh and discover that Bro Charles Wright (originally from Inch in Aberdeenshire) was in the Chair of the Lodge. What a great night – the Degree work was superb, the welcome received was as warm as you could experience anywhere and the Harmony had that wonderful couthiness that you only find in country Lodges.

Bro Frank Walsh was, as usual, the perfect host and he took me along to Lodge Farrer No 93 (UGLNSW) in Albury where we witnessed a well worked exemplification of the EA Degree by W Bro Leith and his Office-bearers and again enjoyed an excellent Harmony and the night before we left Albury it was a return to Wodonga to attend a meeting of Wodonga Lodge No 156 where a first class MM Degree was performed. I must thank the Brethren of all the Lodges I attended for the warmth of their welcome and their generosity and hospitality.



The Lodge Room in Wodonga

While in Albury I was hoping to return to Bateman Bay Daylight Lodge and meet up again with Bro Keith Kauffman and the Brethren of the Lodge but unfortunately while in Albury my son's sister-in-law died at the age of 52 which was a terrible blow to the entire family. However, a trip to Batemans Bay will certainly be on the itinerary next time round.

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ST ANDREW No. 1794 - INSTALLATION - GRENADA

On Thursday 9th of May 2013, while in St George's Grenada, Bro David Pringle and I took the opportunity of attending St George Royal Arch Chapter No. 795.

The meeting was held in the restored Masonic Lodge right in the centre of St George. The Lodge having been restored to its former glory after the damage caused by hurricane Ivan several years ago.

We were made most welcome by all the Companions of the Chapter and the ME 1st Principal, Comp Dr S Thomas and his Companions worked a first class Excellent Master degree for Bro. Colin Dow.

A lovely meal was provided after the ceremony in the adjoining anti-room.

On Saturday 11th May we attended the Installation of Bro. Hassan Hadeed, RWM elect of Lodge St Andrew No. 1974, in the Grand Anse Beach Resort.

An excellent attendance of masons from far and wide witnessed a well worked Installation by the outgoing RWM Bro. Nigel Fleming and his team of Installing Office Bearers.

It was wonderful teaming up again with the District Grand Master for Trinidad & Tobago and Grenada, Brother Adrian Franklin and his large deputation from Trinidad, who all ask kindly for the Brethren in the Province of Ross and Cromarty.

The Installation Banquet held, in the evening, after the Installation, in the same venue was well attended by masons and guests. The toasts of the evening were excellent and the evening went off very well.

Congratulations must be extended to the willing band of workers in the Lodge and "Hannah" who was responsible for setting up and decorating the tables, making the venue so inviting.

An invitation to the newly installed master's residence on the island on the Sunday for brunch, was also exceptionally well attended by masons and families, on a very hot day. The cool drinks were a welcome asset to the day.

Brother Hassan Hadeed, RWM, must be congratulated on his appointment as Ambassador for Grenada in Venezuela, South America. An appointment made after the recent general elections on the island and just after the election/installation.

On Friday 17th May 2013, we were invited to attend the Installation of Bro Juan Bailey of Conception Lodge No 8346 EC. This meeting was held within the Lodge premises at Hillsborough Street, St George's and was very well attended by both English and Scottish Constitutions. Lodge St Andrew No. 1794 having a large deputation present. The installation was carried out by the out-going Worshipful Master, W Bro Christopher Husbands, in an excellent manner as was all the lectures. The Assistant District Grand Master of Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean W Bro David I G Otway, in his address at the conclusion of the meeting, very graciously, welcomed the Scots into the District as is normal Masonic etiquette. At the meeting I conveyed the usual fraternal greetings.

The following day was another day to conclude the celebration of Installation with brunch and cool drinks as hosts of the newly installed W Master at a luxurious dwelling rented out for the day.

The remaining days were spent lazing on Grand Anse Beach soaking up the Caribbean sunshine and enjoying the wonderful hospitality extended by the people of this Island of Paradise.

Morris M Downie

PPGM Ross and Cromarty & Proxy DGM Trinidad & Tobago and Grenada.

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HISTORICAL MASONIC EVENT IN LEBANON

It was with some trepidation that I boarded the plane at Heathrow along with the Grand Master Mason, Grand Secretary and Past Grand Chaplain, Bro Rev Andrew Paterson to head to Beirut. What a pleasant surprise awaited. We were met at Beirut Airport by the District Grand Master Elect, Bro Nakhle Rbeiz and a goodly number of his Office-bearers who transported us to the El Royal Hotel – a beautiful hotel sitting on a hill giving wonderful panoramic views of the city.



The following day, we were supposed to be travelling to the City of Tripoli which is about an hour's drive north of Beirut where, in the evening Bro Paterson and I were to have the privilege of Installing the Master and Office-bearers of Lodge El Mizab No 1130 into their respective Offices. However, due to reported sniper fire in and around Tripoli, the El Mizab Brethren thought it prudent that they should come to Beirut where the ceremony could be carried out in a safer environment.



The Installation Ceremony was well attended by Brethren from all of the Lebanese Lodges which made the occasion all the more pleasurable. I am sure the new Master, Bro Robert Ayoub will remember the occasion with great delight and we wish him and his Office-bearers a very happy year in Office.

It was a real privilege to have been given the opportunity to participate in the Installation and at the end of the evening I was honoured with the presentation of a D of C's Baton made from the Cedars of Lebanon which I was subsequently delighted to use on the Saturday at the Consecration of the new District Grand Lodge of Lebanon.

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We had the great privilege of visiting the Forest of the Cedars of Lebanon on the Wednesday morning.

On the Thursday we were driven to the city of Zahle which was marvelous experience.



Zahlé is built upon a series of foothills of the Lebanon mountains, at the Western edge of the Beqaa plateau, with Mount Sannine (about double the height of Ben Nevis) towering above it. The hills form a narrow valley, which itself is an extension of a ravine to the Northwest ("Wadi el Aarayesh", meaning "Gorge of Vines"). And how apt a name was that? After descending from the Marian Shrine to Our Lady of Zahle, a ten metre shrine built in 1958 in honour of the Virgin Mary we made our way to the Caves de Ksara Winery where we had a fascinating tour of the caves where the wines are stored to mature – and of course we couldn't leave without sampling the produce which was an added bonus!



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If there is one thing that the Lebanese excel at (apart from making wine) it is making food – their food is delicious and they thoroughly enjoy it. When we left the winery, we headed for lunch –



The spread above was typical of what was laid before us on many occasions during our visit. That night we attended meetings of both Lodge Harmony No 1830 and Lodge Zahle No 1047 and at both meetings the welcome and generosity displayed was incredible. In fact the generosity displayed by all the Lodges and by the new District Grand Lodge was overwhelming. When we returned to the hotel, we were joined by the Ladies at the Park Hotel where we enjoyed yet another feast accompanied by local dancers and music.



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On the Friday we travelled back to Beirut via the Jeita Grotto – another wonderful experience



Unfortunately cameras are not allowed in the Grotto but the attached photo which I copied from a postcard gives some indication of the magnificence of the place. Below, is the wee train that transports everyone from the lower to the higher Grotto.



In the evening we attended a meeting at Lodge Kadisha where we received yet more wonderful gifts from the Brethren of Lodge Kadisha and the Brethren of Mount Lebanon before joining with the ladies once again at the Sud Restaurant for Dinner.

Saturday was the big day – the main reason for our visit – when the Grand Master Mason first of all consecrated the new District Grand Lodge of Lebanon and thereafter installed the Commissioned Office-bearers into their respective Offices. The first District Grand Master is Bro Nakhle Simon Rbeiz and he will be assisted by Bro Munir Kfoori as Depute and Bro Nicholas Rbeiz as Substitute DGM. The Ceremony went extremely well much to the enjoyment of the large number of Brethren present from all six Lebanese Lodges and also from the SC Lodge in Jordan – Lodge Jordan No 1339.

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At the conclusion of what was indeed an historic Masonic event, we moved to the Saray Restaurant where the ladies joined in the Consecration Dinner.



During the speeches, more presentations were made, friendships were made and renewed and there was a wonderful celebratory ambience as history was made in the formation of the youngest District in the Grand Lodge of Scotland – the District Grand Lodge of Lebanon.

The entire experience was one which I shall never forget and I look forward to meeting up with many of the Lebanese Brethren who intend to attend the Grand Lodge Installation in November when I might get the opportunity to repay in some small way, the kindness and generosity displayed to us all during our visit.

Ramsay McGhee

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Royal Arch

INVITATION to the INSTALLATION of the PROVINCIAL GRAND SUPERINTENDENT In ROYAL ARCH HEBRIDES No. 364

Dear Sir and M.E. Companion,

The Grand Superintendent of Ross & Cromarty MEC Donald Sutherland has much pleasure in extending an invitation to your 1st Principal, Office Bearers & Companions of your Chapter to attend the Installation of our Grand Superintendent Elect MEC Donald Macleod and his Commissioned Officers.

The Installation Ceremony will take place on the Saturday 7th September 2013 commencing at 3pm in the Masonic Lodge, 55-57 Kenneth St, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis. A Deputation from Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland headed by the 1st Principal of Scotland MEC JA Fraser will perform the Installation Ceremony.

There will be a dinner to follow after the meeting at 5.30 pm. To assist with catering arrangements it would be much appreciated if you could make me aware of the number of tickets required which will cost £15.00 before 24th August 2013.

For your information Lodge Fortrose 108 will be meeting at 8pm on Friday 6th and intend to be working a degree that evening.

Ferry times:

There are 3 sailings on Friday 6th departing from Ullapool at 0930, 1630, and 2300. The 1630 sailing arrives in Stornoway at 1915.

On Saturday the ferry leaves Ullapool at 1025 arriving in Stornoway at 1310.

There is only 1 sailing from Stornoway on Sunday 8th at 1430.

If you require any further assistance please contact me.

Yours Sincerely and Fraternally

Hugh Patience

Provincial Grand Scribe E.

St Clement RAC No 244 –

Our next meeting will be on Friday 25th October.

Cromarty Firth RAC

The Companions are all saddened by the passing of P.Z. Dougie Macleod who kept us all on our toes with his imitable style and comments, he will be sadly missed within the chapter and in other orders.

Our next meeting will be on the 2nd October and will be the reinstatement of companion Colin Thomson and his office bearers.

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The Squaremen – Hielan' Shed No 6



New Squaremen being welcomed in Forres in April.

Morris M Downie

Guild Lodges

Highland Guild Lodge will meet Friday 13th September at 7.45 in Lodge Averon, Alness to work 1st degree

Rosicrucian College – Inverness

First meeting will be held in Inverness on Monday 14th October 2013.

Ramsay McGhee
Editor